

THE

LILLER

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Heroes Return

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Chaplain's Corner

'Two Kinds of Heart' Chaplain finds inspiration in young Soldier's spirit

by Chaplain (Capt.)
Steven K. White
266th QM Battalion

There are times in life when you get to experience a miracle. Not only are miracles rare, but miraculous Soldiers are also quite rare. Pvt. Julio Ceballos-Ruiz is such a rare Soldier.

You see, Private Ceballos-Ruiz has two hearts.

He has a physical heart that developed a 5 - 8 centimeter mass and he also has the heart of a warrior.

After morning physical training, Ceballos-Ruiz felt something was wrong and went to sick call where he was diagnosed with a heart murmur.

He was immediately taken to Southside Regional Medical Center and within 24 hours, he was shipped to the Medical College of Virginia.

His battalion commander and chaplain visited with him in Southside and were astonished at his positive outlook and enthusiastic demeanor.

The Soldier was more concerned with us visiting him on our own personal time than he was with his dawning open heart procedure.

The next day he woke up just hours after surgery and immediately called his drill sergeant to update him on his status. Ceballos-Ruiz had just emerged from open heart surgery where most people would take days to recover and yet his main concern was Tango Company.

His heart beat for his battle

buddies back in the company.

The Army brought the Ceballos-Ruiz family all the way from California to the Soldier's bedside in Richmond.

They traveled 3,000 miles and just like their Soldier, showed no signs of fatigue, nor dismay. Just as two heart fibers will begin to beat in a singular rhythm even if separated, so this family proved to be family of one heart beat.

Their faith and courage never wavered and confidence about his recovery never faltered.

As it turns out, his close knit family back home had initiated a church wide prayer chain and Ceballos-Ruiz gained his strength and confidence with that knowledge.

Visiting with this Soldier in the hospital leaves the visitor with a sincere sense of awe and reverence at the Soldier's unanswerable strength.

Where other normal people would be compelled to drowse in their weakened state, Ceballos-Ruiz attempts to sit up in bed whenever a visitor enters the room.

I nearly cried when he asked me how soon he could return to his company and begin training.

Throughout this entire experience, the 266th chain of command was trying to be there for him, but we found a Soldier who was more concerned about being there for us.

Truly this Soldier is the heartbeat of "mission first," "never quit" and "never accept defeat." His is an Army of one heartbeat.



Photo by Timothy L. Hale

Tears of joy fall down the faces of Sgt. Stephen Hubbard's family as he is surrounded by them at the welcome home ceremony after his unit, the 372nd Military Police Company returned from an 18-month deployment. Decompression training held at Fort Lee, before mobilized Soldiers return to their hometowns, helps them understand their experiences and handle them in healthy ways. In addition, Fort Lee also offers reunion classes for interested family members.

Deal with it now or pay for it later

If you've ever lived through a traumatic experience, you probably could relate to the July 17 Progress-Index story by reporter Cliff Davis on the decompression program at Fort Lee ("Chaplains ease transition for returning soldiers").

You don't have to be a combat veteran to understand what it means to fear the night, when the mind plays tricks and the body reacts with sleep disturbances and other psychological disorders.

Decompression is the Army's way of dealing with the psychological after-effects of combat trauma.

The Fort Lee decompression team of Chaplain (Maj.) Larry Sharp, Sgt. 1st Class Ray Coward, Chaplain Chuck Tillis and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bill Carey is led by Fort Lee's Installation Chaplain (Col.) James Robinson, who helped develop decompression methods while stationed in Germany, where some of the survivors of the USS Cole terrorist attacks were

brought to recover.

The team members work with the Soldiers for as long as it takes using a variety of methods and also with a hotline to Fort Lee.

"In past wars," Davis wrote in the article, "such agonizing experiences stayed locked up inside the veterans, disrupting their lives long after they left the front."

Society paid for it in a variety of ways - substance abuse, marital problems, unemployment.

Fort Lee's decompression program won't guarantee that those problems will no longer exist in combat veterans, but it does provide the Soldiers with a fighting chance for a thorough recovery.

For their heroic service, they deserve that... and so much more.

— This commentary courtesy
of "The Progress-Index,"
where it first appeared Sunday.

The Traveller welcomes Letters to the Editor.
Articles may be sent to 1321 Battle Drive, Fort Lee,
Va. 23801 or by e-mail to editor@lee.army.mil.
Letters may be edited for space and content.

FORT LEE TRAVELLER

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on the cover



Sgt. Kenneth Liller,
372nd Military Police
Company, holds his 3-
year-old son Tyler after
returning from spend-
ing 18 months in sup-
port of Operation Iraqi
Freedom.

For story and photos
see Pages 12 and 13.

Photo by
Spc. Jason B. Cutshaw

The Fort Lee Traveller
is printed on recycled paper.

Post closes first chapter in mobilization

by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Sweeney
PA NCOIC/Managing Editor

With Monday's arrival of the 372nd Military Police Company from deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Fort Lee will complete a mission started more than a year ago when the Army mobilized thousands of Reserve Component Soldiers.

Unit's began arriving on Fort Lee in late February 2003. By the time the last unit completed the mobilization process here, the post had taken 20 units, with more than 4,700 Soldiers total to completion and ensured they were ready to meet the challenges that awaited them in theater.

While not all of the units deployed, every unit was capable and ready to go.

"I'm extremely proud of TEAM LEE," said Col. John R. Angevine, U.S. Army Garrison commander. "You did a fantastic

job. You worked as a team, and with no outside resources proved Fort Lee's value as a power support platform."

"You have the right to take great pride in what you've accomplished as the unit's deployed and returned through Fort Lee," Angevine said.

"However," he added, "take heed, we don't know what the future holds, and you may all be asked to repeat the Herculean tasks you were involved in a once again."

"In addition, I ask you to remember that some members of the units may remain on post for a variety of reasons," he said. "For instance, we have several mobilized Soldiers who are completing medical evaluation boards."

"I know you'll continue to give them the same excellent support you always have," Angevine said.

"After all, they don't come any better than TEAM LEE."

Units mobilized at Fort Lee:

444th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
444th Detachment 1
444th Detachment 2
444th Detachment 3
261st Ordnance
811th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
298th Transportation Company
363rd Military Police Company
1485 Transportation Company
443rd Military Police Company
372nd Military Police Company
319th Engineer Company
156th Military Police Detachment
135th Military Police Detachment
229th Chemical Company
1229th Trans. Company
445th Quartermaster Company
423rd Quartermaster Company
1031st Engineer Company
1190th Direct Support Battalion



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Sweeney

When duffels fly. . .

Duffel bags are heaved up a hill as Soldiers from the 372nd Military Police Company unload their baggage on arrival at Fort Lee. Unloading the baggage was the last mission the Soldiers had before seeing their families and being released at the unit's welcome home ceremony.

DoD Hotline operates outside commands

Department of Defense Inspector General Joseph Schmitz wants to remind servicemembers there are any number of ways outside their chains of command to report suspected incidents of wrongdoing.

His office runs the DoD Hotline Program. Servicemembers and civilians who wish to report incidents without going through their chains of command can take full advantage of this program.

Those with suspicions can call toll free (800) 424-9098, commercial (703) 604- 8569, or DSN 664-8569 to report misdeeds.

Servicemembers and civilians can also mail their

concerns to The Defense Hotline, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C., 20301-1900.

The e-mail address is hotline@didig.osd.mil.

The push to inform servicemembers of this option grew out of the recent series of Senate hearings about prisoner abuse in Iraq.

Senators believed there was no way for servicemembers to report wrongdoing outside their chains of command.

For more information, go to the inspector general's Web site, www.dodig.osd.mil.

— American Forces Press Service

News Briefs

New CASCOM CG Named

Maj. Gen. Terry E. Juskowiak, Combined Arms Command and Fort Lee commander will relinquish command to Maj. Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody in a ceremony on Sgt. Seay Field Sept. 2, 8 a.m.

IRR Must Report Civilian Skills

As of March 2004, Reserve members of all branches are required by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs to report Individual Ready Reservist civilian employment information and other civilian job skills.

For details, see DoD Directive 7730.54.

Homeland Security Heightened

The Homeland Security Office raised the threat level to orange, or high, for parts of New York City, northern New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge cited "new and unusually specific information about where al Qaeda would like to attack," as the reason for the elevation.

Election Year Guidance

Soldiers and Department of the Defense Civilians are restricted from many political activities.

For details, see DoD Directive 1344.10 and AR 360-1.

Hartmann pool opened

Repairs to Hartmann pool have been completed and it is again open for lap swimming.

Hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 6 - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Use or Lose Leave Approaches

Military personnel should check their end of month leave and earnings statement to ensure they can make plans to take leave if necessary.

Use or Lose leave days are listed in a box on the line below the deductions listings.

Force Protection Exercises

In the coming weeks Fort Lee will conduct force protection exercises. Some of them may be quite realistic.

For information see next week's "Traveller."

Stabilization in effect Aug. 1

The Army stabilization program has now gone into effect.

Soldiers will now stay at duty stations for longer periods of time, normally up to seven years.

For details, see www.us.army.mil.

Absentee Voting Assistance

Fort Lee has a new assistant voting registration assistance officer.

Personnel without a unit voting assistance officer can contact James Castro at (804) 734-6920 for assistance with absentee ballots.

Summer Day Camp Deductible

Parents who send their children to a daytime only summer camp may be able to deduct a percentage of the costs from their taxable income.

For details, see www.irs.gov on the Internet.

Tax Extension Ends Aug. 16

Taxpayers who opted for an automatic extension to file their taxes with the Internal Revenue Service must file by close of business Aug. 16.

Those who owe money and have not filed by then are subject to a 5 percent penalty each month thereafter.

From Vietnam to Iraq

Maryland Family rallies around state colors



Photo by Amy Clement

Michael and Margie Kamauff reunite with their son, Sgt. Donovan Kamauff of the 372nd Military Police Company, during the unit's homecoming ceremony Monday evening at Fort Lee. Michael brought the Maryland state flag that he carried through his service in the Navy during Vietnam more than 35 years ago.

by Amy Clement
Fort Lee Public Affairs Office

Michael and Margie Kamauff of Frostburg, Md., anxiously awaited the arrival of the 372nd Military Police Company at the Field House Monday evening.

Their son, Sgt. Donovan Kamauff, was returning with his unit after an 18-month deployment.

The couple sat proudly holding a Maryland state flag alongside the more than 300 family members and friends that were awaiting the unit's homecoming.

For many of the families gathered for the joyous occasion, the flag simply stood for the native pride they felt for this unit based out of Maryland. But, for the Kamauff's, it meant a great deal more. It signified a family tradition of military service to this country.

The weathered flag had survived two tours in the Vietnam War, where Sgt. Kamauff's father served more than 35 years ago.

"I brought the flag today to honor my son," said Kamauff.

The historic flag was sent to Kamauff in 1968 by former Vice President Spiro Agnew, who was then the governor of Maryland.

"I had written the governor a letter asking for a state flag and explained that I was in the service and would be deploying to Vietnam," said Kamauff. "He sent me this flag along with a letter."

Kamauff's father served four years in the Navy and was sent twice to Vietnam between 1968 and 1970 with the U.S. Navy Seabees, Mobile

Construction Battalion -1 (MCB-1). "I carried the flag with me across the Mekong Delta during this time," he said.

"We're really excited about his return tonight," said Margie. "It's been 18 long months."

The Kamauff's don't have any specific plans for their 27-year-old son's return. "We're gonna do whatever Donovan wants to do," said Margie. "We're gonna play it by ear and leave it up to him."

"If he wants to go out to eat, that's what we'll do, or if he wants to hang out with his comrades, we'll do that. This is his day," said Michael Kamauff.

Sgt. Kamauff, who resides in Hagerstown, Md., has served more than eight years in the Army Reserves. "He's truly served his country well. I am very proud of my son," said Margie.

"The entire unit served their country well," said Kamauff's father. "When you consider that there were no casualties in this unit and the dangerous missions that they were in ... they had to take care of each other because otherwise there would have been casualties. This is about all of them being like the band of brothers you hear about. They really took care of each other."

The Kamauffs haven't decided what they will do with the flag when they return home. "I'm not really sure what we plan to do with the flag when we get home," said Margie. "We will decorate it in our home for his homecoming, but this will be something for our grandkids to enjoy one day."

Fire hydrants tested

Fire hydrants in family housing areas will be tested from Aug. 23 – 31 by the Fort Lee Fire and Emergency Services Division.

The seasonal fire hydrant testing program is designed to ensure that the post's hydrants are ready for use should they be needed.

Testing is required to ensure that hydrants are in full working order and verifies their flow capacity. The primary goal of testing is to ensure adequate water supply is available should a fire occur in housing.

In order to determine that a hydrant is capable of meeting fire flow requirements, fire personnel must open the hydrants and discharge water from the hydrant at a very high flow rate.

When fire hydrants are checked in this manner, iron deposits in the water lines are stirred up. This can cause a brown discoloration in the water. This condition is temporary and will correct itself in a number of hours. While the water is still safe to drink and cook with, it is recommended residents avoid washing white fabrics or clothing on the testing days listed below. Residents who chose to do laundry on testing days should check their water's coloration before starting. It is also best to limit the use of your hot water until it's clear, as this will keep the iron deposits from going into your hot water heater.

In addition, motorists and pedestrians should use caution when approaching an area where hydrant testing is in progress.

The long-term benefits of this program for the Fort Lee Community are:

- Knowing the fire hydrant has been tested and is in good operational condition.

- Annual flows reduce and ultimately remove the iron deposits in our water lines.

- Improve the overall quality of the post's water system

The Fort Lee Fire and Emergency Services welcome your comments or concerns on our fire hydrant testing program. Call (804) 734-7950 or 734-6041 for information.

Testing Schedule:

Testing will be conducted from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on the days as listed below.

Aug. 23

Jackson Circle
Ewell Court
Early Court

Aug. 24, 25

Yorktown Road
Buna Circle
Bataan Road
Coral Sea Circle
Cassino Road

Aug. 30, 31

Battle Drive
Bastogne Road
St. Lo Road
Salerno Road
Okinawa Road
Cherbourg Road
Metz Road



— Fort Lee Fire and Emergency Services Division



Photo by Amy Clement

Kim Evans, Fort Lee Army Community Services, briefs family members of Soldiers from the 372nd Military Police Company about overcoming the stresses involved in family reunions after an extended deployment. Training topics Monday included communication, dealing with high expectations and readjusting to family roles and responsibilities. The unit arrived later that day. For information on reunion training, family members can call ACS at (804) 734-6388.

372nd Soldiers keep proud lineage alive



The 372nd Military Police Company was one of the first units mobilized at Fort Lee and the last to demobilize following from the initial group of units activated in early 2003.

During the many years of its existence, the 372nd Military Police Company has acquired a richly deserved reputation.

It has proved itself as a solid, dependable and competent outfit which is ever ready, willing, and able to go anywhere and perform any mission.

The 372nd has a proud heritage that dates back to the Civil War and extensive heroic service in World War II, Desert Storm, Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia, Operation Noble Eagle and finally Operation Iraqi Freedom.

From August 2000 to the present the unit now has more total deployment time than in any operation since the Civil War.

The War in Iraq 2003-2004

On Feb. 24, 2003, the unit was activated with its full allotment of Soldiers to report to Fort Lee Feb. 27, 2003 for mobilization.

The unit deployed to Kuwait on May 15, 2003 for further advancement into Iraq.

On arrival in Iraq, the 372nd MP Co. moved near the city of Al Hillah. Its Soldiers assumed a law and order mission by integrating the unit into the local police force.

They also worked hand-in-hand with civil affairs to rebuild the Iraqi nation.

The commander, as the acting Al Hillah police chief, gained respect

from the Iraqi police department.

One mission accomplished was the training of new Iraqi police officers, including set-up and operation of a local police academy.

In October 2003, the unit was tasked to support detention operations west of Baghdad.

This was the largest coalition detention facility established within the country of Iraq under control of 320th MP Battalion, 800th MP Brigade.

In addition to housing security detainees and transporting suspected Iraqi criminals to local courts, the unit was instrumental in rebuilding many facets of Iraqi infrastructure such as police stations, courts and schools.

In April 2004, the unit's mobilization was extended in Iraq.

In May 2004, the unit also began escorting civilian convoys and carrying supplies for U.S. and coalition forces.

Through this volatile time in Iraq, the unit conducted its operations professionally and flawlessly while under constant attack on their convoys and living compounds.

Post Desert Storm

During this time, the unit participated in a number of exercises including Operation Roving Sands in Texas and New Mexico, Operation Bright Star in Egypt.

In February 2001, the unit was selected to participate in Stabilization Force-10 (SFOR-10) in Bosnia as part of Operation Joint Forge.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington D.C., the unit was called up to support the Global War on Terrorism as part of

Operation Noble Eagle/Operation Enduring Freedom.

Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm

After activation on Sept. 25, 1990, the 372nd saw extensive service in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

They performed security duties around installations and main supply routes.

During its time overseas, the unit also made twelve tactical moves, four during a time of war. The unit returned on U.S. soil May 14, 1991.

The Post WWII — Cold War

The 372nd was never called upon for active service during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

During this time, the unit changed several times. It also recruited its first female Soldiers as the Army began to open more of its career fields to women.

In 1985, a platoon sized element of the 372nd was selected for duty in Operation Bright Star in Egypt and Jordan.

As the 1980s wore on, other personnel were selected for duty in Germany and Honduras.

World War II

Ten and a half months after America's entry into World War II, the 372nd Military Police Escort Guard Company was activated at Florence, Ariz. under the authority of the Ninth Service Command on 15 October 1942. As an escort guard company, its duties dealt primarily with the care and handling of enemy prisoners of war.

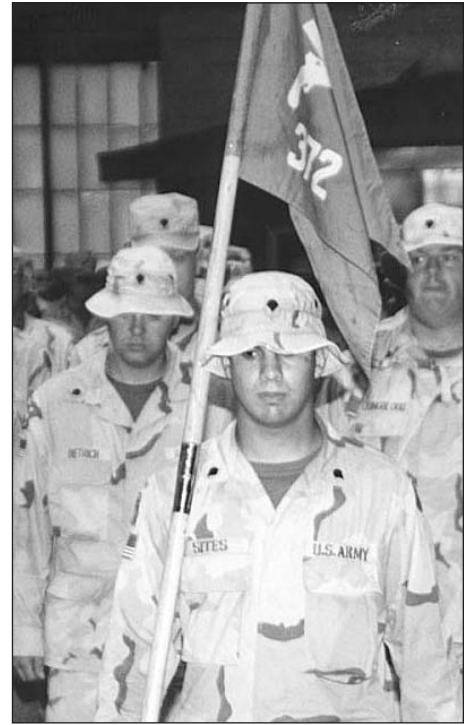


Photo by Spc.. Jason Cutshaw

Spc. Brian Sites carries the 372nd Military Police Company's guidon into the Post Field House Monday on the unit's return from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During World War II, the 372nd served with distinction in North Africa, Italy, southern France and Germany with the US Seventh Army.

Their primary mission during World War II was processing, escorting and care and handling of axis POWs from the front lines.

— Information provided by 99th Regional Readiness Command



PHOTO BY ANN HARRISON

Serenade in Army green. . .

Maj. Gen. Terry E. Juskowiak, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee commanding general, thanks the members of the 392nd Fort Lee Army Band for their debut performance of the “*CASCOM March*.” Chief Warrant Officer William Horton, Fort Lee Army Band commander, and former 392nd member Sgt. Curtis Ritchie accomplished a Fort Lee first for the band by composing both the music and lyrics for the march.

After a six-month approval process, the “*CASCOM March*” is now an official Army march and will be used for future CASCOM events.

Old Soldiers never die, They just fade away. . .

266th QM Bn.'s Command Sgt. Maj. Davis retires

by Capt. Martisse Best-Dettmer
266th QM Bn.

For the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of 266th Quartermaster Battalion, 23rd QM. Brigade July 27 was a bittersweet occasion as Command Sgt. Maj. Kimberly Davis officially retired after 20-years of service to the U.S. Army.

The retirement ceremony and luncheon was held at the Regimental Club where she was joined by a number of officers and senior enlisted members, many who traveled from great distances, to pay tribute to this great Soldier.

Her mother and grandmother also traveled from Springfield, Mass. to witness her retirement.

Davis entered the Army in 1983 as a Subsistence Supply Specialist.

During her career she served in a variety of positions including squad leader, section sergeant, platoon sergeant, Primary Leadership Development Course Instructor, senior drill sergeant, brigade operations sergeant, first sergeant, sergeant major and 266th QM Bn. command sergeant major.

As the 266th command sergeant major she was in charge of more than 32 noncommissioned officers and 900 enlisted Soldiers.

Davis motivated the 266th QM Bn. with her hard-charging work ethic and intense appreciation for physical fitness.

She held several battalion spirit runs and participated in the Army's Ten-Miler Race.

She also orchestrated all of the Drill Sergeant

"End of the Trail" ceremonies and battalion change of command ceremonies.

Throughout her long and distinguished career, Davis has served in the Army on four continents.

She served two tours in Nuernberg, Germany; a tour in Grafenwoer Germany and also a tour in South Korea.

Stateside she has been assigned to Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Lee.

While at Fort Bragg she participated in deployments to Africa, Puerto Rico, Bosnia, Thailand, and Colombia.

During her tenure she earned the master parachutist wings, and foreign jump wings.

She became qualified as a master trainer in physical fitness and holds an Associates Degree in General Education and Applied Management.

In addition Davis has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation medals with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medals with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Armed Forces Service medal, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal.

She also proudly wears the Drill Sergeant Patch and German Marksmanship Badge.



Photo by Capt. Martisse Best-Dettmer

Command Sgt. Maj. Kimberly Davis receives her Legion of Merit award from Col. Belinda Buckman, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade commander. During her 20-year-career Davis served on four continents and participated in deployments to five countries.

When she is not doing challenging jobs, her hobbies are traveling, reading, bike riding and hanging out with her dog "Kobe."

Davis has been a fine outstanding member of the U.S. Armed Forces and will be greatly missed by absence by all who served with her.



Cpl. Robert Nichols, 372nd Military Police Company, undergoes inspection by his six-month old daughter Haley, as son Jose, 2, supervises. Nichols, along with more than 100 Soldiers from the 372nd spent 18 months in Iraq supporting U.S. operations.

Photo by T...



Photo by Spc. Jason Cutshaw

Sgt. Jeremy McGuire hugs Sarah Remsburg after being dismissed from formation following the unit's welcome home ceremony at the Fort Lee Field House Monday.



Photo by Spc. Jason

Spc. Felicia Hazelrod, 372nd Military Police Company, listens to her young cousin as her little brother waits his turn.



Photo by Jamie L. Carson

Capt. Donald Reese, 372nd Military Police Company commander, leads his unit into the Fort Lee Field House to thunderous applause Monday night.

372nd Military Police get heroes' welcome



Photo by Tim Hale

Lizzie McGuire's sign says it all.

By Spc. Jason B. Cutshaw
Staff Writer

More than 100 Soldiers returned home after completing an 18-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Monday evening to the cheers of friends and family members at the Post Field House.

The 372nd Military Police Company, an Army Reserve unit based in Cumberland, Md., deployed

from Fort Lee in May 2003 to assume the mission of providing security and stability in their area of responsibility.

Among the welcoming committee of more than 300 family members and friends of the 372nd were several dignitaries including the Fort Lee leadership and Maj. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy, 99th Regional Readiness Command commander.

"You make me incredibly proud to be an American," Kennedy said. "You have a right to be proud of what you have accomplished as a team and as individual Soldiers."

The unit worked with civil affairs to rebuild the Iraqi nation. This included setting up and operating a local police academy, rebuilding courts, schools and police stations.

The unit's deployment was extended twice while serving in Iraq. During that time, the unit also provided security for civilian and military convoys carrying U.S. and coalition supplies and personnel.

"It is great to be back home finally," said Cpl. Robert Nichols. "I am going to take some time off and reacquaint myself with everyone and everything. I am just happy to be here, but still praying for the ones who are still serving overseas."

Their accomplishments earned numerous individual medals including six Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts and numerous Army Commendation Medals.

While the Soldiers were deployed in harm's way, the family members kept up their spirits by sending cards and care packages to the ones they loved. The unit's Family Readiness Group was responsible for ensuring the families of the 372nd were informed and supported whenever they needed to be.

"While they were gone, we spent time trying to get through our days and stay in contact by e-mails and phone calls," said Michelle Joyner, one of the FRG leaders and wife of Sgt. Hydrue Joyner. "We have tried to keep everybody's spirits up and help people out when they need it and help them find the right resources from the Army to get things done and keep everybody informed."

"We just thank God everyone is finally home, and they are all safe," she added.

Staff Sgt. Edwin Ramos, a 372nd team leader, reiterated Joyner's words and said he couldn't wait to enjoy a nice dinner and movie with his wife, Spc. Tami Ramos, a 372nd personnel specialist.

"One thing I learned while in Iraq is that you have to trust your Soldiers," Ramos said. "I also hope I made my family proud. My father is no longer with us, but he was also in the Army, and I know he would have been the proudest dad here."

For one Soldier, returning to America was the best feeling. "Finally returning home is beyond words," said Sgt. Leann Bluebaugh. "Sometimes it was difficult, but this is all worth it."

Before releasing the Soldiers to their loved ones, Capt. Donald Reese, 372nd MP Co. commander, spoke of how proud he was of the Soldiers. "First of all, we are glad to be home and glad to be back in the U.S.," Reese said. "As we all know it was a long, difficult deployment which included three separate missions and two extensions. I am proud of every Soldier standing here."

"I witnessed great acts of kindness, bravery and professionalism by everyone here," he said. "It's easy to lead when you surround yourself with great Soldiers. Members of the 372nd, you should hold your heads high."

National hero continues service

by **Spc. Jason B. Cutshaw**
Staff Writer

As every Soldier, Sailor, Marine, Airman and Coast Guardsman knows, service in the armed forces is more than just a job, it is a commitment to serve the nation 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

Most members who take on the profession of arms have stories to tell. For one member of the 372nd Military Police Company, his is a story of heroism and serving his nation in war and peace.

Sgt. Ken Davis joined the U.S. Air Force to see the world shortly after graduating high school. He served as a security police officer on active duty from April 24, 1989 until March 25, 1992. He then transferred to the Air Force Reserves and later

to the Air National Guard and completing his time in August of 1995.

It was the experience of that military journey that would later make Davis a national hero.

"In 1993, I moved to Maryland where I had transferred into the Air National Guard from the Air Force Reserves," Davis said. "On Oct. 29, 1994 I was sight seeing in Washington D.C. for the very first time, and while I was on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the White House, a gunman opened fire. He had started shooting at the White House after a child said 'Look there is the President.'"

After the gunman started firing, and without much time to think, Davis followed his instincts and military training, as he assisted in apprehending the would-be assassin.

"The gunman was approximately 15 to 20 feet away from me to my right. I looked at him thinking this has to be a simulation or an exercise. But then it hit me, this is for real. Everything moved in slow motion, or so it seemed," Davis said. "He pointed the weapon in my direction, and I back pedaled toward Pennsylvania Avenue.

"Francisco Martin Duran continued to fire at the White House, and then struggled to reload his SKS with another magazine."

"At this time, two fellow citizens and I subdued him until the Secret Service got to us, and then we were escorted to the Old Executive Building to be debriefed," he added

"Francisco Martin Duran was a former Soldier but had been given a dishonorable discharge. He received more than 40 years for the attempted assassi-

nation of President Bill Clinton," Davis said. "Afterward, I was invited to the Oval Office and was on several talk shows along with being a guest on Larry King Live."

After King's show, he was also featured on American Journal, Inside Edition, Hard Copy and various television programs. "Time", "People", "Readers Digest", "Life" and other magazines also wrote stories on Davis.

Davis received the Airman's Medal for his heroic actions.

"Shortly thereafter, I received my discharge from the Air Force and worked in the civilian market at a job with Owens Corning in Ohio, but always missed being in the service," he added.

He thought his days in uniform were over. But when terrorists struck at the heart of

America, the heart of a warrior awoke once again to answer the call of duty.

"I signed up with the Army to be a military police officer due to the events of Sept. 11, 2001," he added. "I wanted to defend and serve my country during this time of uncertainty. I was assigned to 372nd MP Company, and on Feb. 27, 2003 we ended up at Fort Lee to mobilize for Iraq."

The unit left for Iraq in May of 2003 and while Davis had to stay behind for a minor surgery, he was reunited with his unit in September. Before arriving, the unit had been serving in Al Hilla, Iraq. They provided law enforcement and ensuring the crime rate dropped while they were there.

"My platoon was assigned to escort duty where we were tasked with escorting Iraqi detainees to court in Baghdad," he said. "While performing this mission, we established and maintained excellent relations with the Iraqi judges and helped the judicial system in Iraq after years of oppression and terror at the hands of Saddam Hussein."

While helping to bring justice to the Iraqi nation, Davis and members of the unit also passed out simple items that Americans take for granted, but the Iraqis have rarely had a chance to enjoy.

For instance, Davis said he and his fellow Soldiers passed out a number books.

"These were all in Arabic and this allowed the Iraqis to see that they had a choice in what to believe in. We would also constantly take candy by the box load to the children at the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Sgt. Ken Davis, 372nd Military Police Company, holds an Iraqi child. Davis was one of three men who tackled a man shooting at President Bill Clinton outside the White House in October 1994.



One of Sgt. Ken Davis' greatest rewards during his deployment was distributing books to Iraqi children.

courts and in their schools," he added.

One day while riding in a convoy in Iraq, Davis' vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device on the road, and he was sent back to the United States.

"Serving in Iraq has given me a renewed focus on my desire to help people," he added. "God watched over my unit and me while we were in Iraq. We did not lose a Soldier in combat

due to the protecting hand of God."

Davis also said that he is serving in the ministry and involved in helping feed the homeless and less fortunate.

"We have people all around us here, as well as in Iraq who need our help," he added. "We, as people, are responsible for our world, not just our own

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neighborhood or city. I believe we can make a difference if we choose to work together and not worry about who gets the credit.”
“My future goal is to have a jet ski

team around the world to raise money for research to find a cure for cancer and other terminal diseases,” Davis said.
“I also want to raise at least 1 million new bone marrow donors to be registered so no one has to die while waiting for a match.”

Davis was recently medically discharged from the service and is currently living in Maryland, but he said his time in the military was one of his greatest accomplishments, and he will always support those who wear the uniform.
“I joined the military both times to

proudly serve alongside my fellow Soldiers of the past, present and future to ensure the continued freedom of our nation and our allies,” Davis said. “The members of the 372nd are great Soldiers, and it was a blessing and a privilege to serve with them for the time that I did.”

Mom, Dad and four sons; every one a veteran

by Sgt 1st Class Paul Sweeney
PA NCOIC/Managing Editor

The return of the 372nd Military Police Company from Iraq Monday night answered a lot of Milton Lease Jr.'s prayers. "An awful lot of them."

Milton, a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, and his wife, Susan, a Navy veteran of the same era, have four sons, every one of them in the military.

Monday's homecoming ceremony brought Milton's son Joseph, a staff sergeant home.

Although Milton had driven more than 200 miles to see his son, the one thing he did not get to do was watch him march under the American flag as his son came home. Arthritic Rheumatism kept him confined to the family's truck.

Instead, he sent his wife and two of his son's, James, a National Guard member and David, a USMC Reservist into greet Joseph.

Joseph's older brother, Milton III, a Reservist, returned from Iraq a few months earlier, but was not able to make the trip to Fort Lee.

"It's great to have him back," James said of his older brother. "I get on his nerves real bad, and he's probably gotten real soft over there. It's time to toughen him up again."

"The best part of being back is I get to see my son Zachary," Joseph added, as his ignored his "little" brother James in the background.

For Susan, although the homecoming meant all her boys were back home, she still had one regret. "Even with all the applause, I wish we could have done even more for our Soldiers when they came home."

